

Welcome to Becky

You may have noticed a new face around the Cathedral Office in recent weeks.

Becky Maitland-Titterton, from Vicars Cross, is kindly giving us her time as a Volunteer admin receptionist and we are delighted to welcome her to our team.

She has a friendly face and big smile, so please say hello to her when you are next in the office!



Cathedral Forum – Thursday 27 May 2010

A meeting of the Cathedral Forum will be held at 6.30 pm (after Evensong) on the evening of Thursday May 27th in the Chapter House, and will include an interlude for discussions over light refreshments in the Cloister Room. An agenda and summary accounts will be issued in advance of the meeting. The Forum will include various reports from Chapter and the Cathedral team. The meeting will also include the three yearly election of two Forum representatives to the Cathedral Chapter and two representatives on the Cathedral Council as well as the lay Chair of the Forum. All those on the Cathedral Roll are invited to attend the meeting.*

Further details including nomination arrangements will be issued shortly (NB Changes to the Cathedral Roll are not permitted once nominations open).

* Anyone over 16 is eligible to enrol if they worship regularly at the Cathedral, are engaged in work or service connected with the Cathedral in a regular capacity, or hold office linking the holder to the Cathedral. The appropriate forms are available from the Cathedral Office at 12 Abbey Square (telephone phone 01244 324756) or

Keep Chester Cathedral Running

Please sponsor Chris Walton and Martin Witty as they once again take up the challenge of the Chester Half Marathon on Sunday 16 May 2010. The 13 and a bit mile course starts and finishes at the Racecourse.

You can sponsor them, with Gift Aid, if applicable, by dropping a donation envelope marked 10K into the Cathedral Office or by clicking on the link on the Cathedral Website Home Page. The aim is to raise £1000 towards Cathedral funds.

Thank You for your Support



Canons in Residence:

APRIL

1st-3rd Canon CW Humphries
4th--17th Canon TJ Dennis
18th- 30th Canon CP Burkett

MAY

1st- Canon CP Burkett
2nd-15th - Canon TJ Dennis
16th-29th- Canon CP Burkett
30th-31st - Canon CW Humphries

Worship in the Cathedral:

Weekdays:

0730 Morning Prayer (St Anselm's Chapel)
1230 Eucharist (1130 on Thursdays)
1730 Choral Evensong (said service on Wednesdays)

Saturdays:

0900 Morning Prayer (St Anselm's Chapel)
0930 Eucharist
1615 Choral Evensong

Sundays:

0800 Prayer Book Communion Service (said)
1000 Cathedral Eucharist
1130 Sung Mattins (or Prayer Book Eucharist 3rd & 5th Sundays)
1530 Choral Evensong
1830 Evening Service on 1st and 5th Sunday

All subject to occasional variations.

Don't forget....

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Saturday 1st May

News April 2010

Canon Chris Humphries Writes....

Marriage Matters

Thirty one years ago on a bright January day on a coastal path by Dunstanburgh Castle in Northumberland I popped the question. To my great relief and delight the answer was positive! This month Barbara and I celebrate our Thirtieth Wedding anniversary and it's a good time to reflect on the institution of marriage and what it means to individuals, to the church and to society more generally.



Any relationship with another human being can be joyful, sad, fulfilling and frustrating... sometimes all these things at once! The truth is that, because God created us with different personalities, gifts and interests, any long-standing relationship has to have large measures of patience and understanding, along with the determination to "work at it" which implies communicating and making time for one another.

In my view Marriage is great, to be thoroughly recommended! But it often doesn't square with the way its portrayed in the press and the media or even in the manifestos of political parties. Some of the great Hollywood romantic films have a mixed legacy in terms of our perception of marriage, bolstering the idea of "happy ever after" relationships where expectations can be unrealistic and difficult to meet. More recently the cult of celebrity has threatened to skew our understanding of the importance of long-term steady relationships. The saga of Katie Price (Jordan) and Peter Andre sold many copies of "O.K." magazine and similar productions but promotes gossip, tittle-tattle and a kind of voyeuristic culture. The people concerned no doubt benefit financially but at what cost? Other couples such as Cheryl and Ashley Cole, Kate Winslet and Sam Mendes (from the glamorous worlds of film and sport) bear witness to the damage that can be done.

Marriage matters as a source of personal happiness and fulfilment, but also because of its role in strengthening society and bonds of family and friendship in the wider community. Where the institution of marriage is under attack and committed relationships are under-valued, it is no coincidence that indicators of disharmony rise...truancy, anti-social behaviour, lack of courtesy and care. This is why marriage and family life has once again crept onto the political agenda of the main parties. As with all political debates, there are many issues to consider. It is right to recognise the needs and hopes of families where stable marriage has not happened or is not possible. Nevertheless we downplay the benefits of marriage at our peril. The Mothers' Union is one organisation that, by its words and actions, demonstrates how Christians can be vigorous and confident in their promotion of marriage. I feel that this positive note needs to be taken up by the church more widely if new marriages are to be helped and strengthened.

At Chester Cathedral we don't have our own parish and because of this Weddings are limited to those who live within the precincts, staff members and those who attend worship here regularly. It happens that we do have several weddings this year, including that of my eldest daughter and her fiancé. That's one wedding where I'll be stepping into the unknown – I've conducted hundreds of weddings over the years but never played the role of Dad! So giving away my own daughter in marriage will certainly give me pause for thought. The beautiful words of the prayers in the Common Worship order of service sum up my hopes for all couples on the threshold of marriage, and affirm all the goodness and blessing that is still possible in committed loving relationships.

Here are some of the words:

*"May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,
Enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;
May they bring comfort and confidence to each other
In faithfulness and trust."*



Chester Cathedral Nave Choir

and the Eighteenth Century Concert Orchestra
Directed by Ian Roberts

Messiah Handel

Saturday 22nd May 7.00pm



Tickets
VIP £25
Adult £15
Concession £13.50
Child (under 16) £5

VIP Tickets for premium position seats include drink & canapè reception during interval.

Box Office
01244 500959
www.chestercathedral.com

Kindly supported by the Friends of Chester Cathedral

CONGRATULATIONS!



to Russ Millhouse and Rosie Brown, both members of the Cathedral staff, who recently got engaged.

We are all delighted for them and wish them all the best in planning their special day and future together.

Don't forget to Gift Aid!

If you are a UK Tax Payer, your generous donations go so much (28%) further if you fill in your details on the Gift Aid envelopes provided. You'll need a pen of course!

Thank you so much for your generous support—it all goes a long way.

giftaid it



The Bishop's Visitation - an update from the Dean

Dear members of the Cathedral community,

The Chapter has received from the Bishop copies of the recent Visitation Report.

The Chapter is considering the various aspects of the Report, with a view to taking such actions as may be considered right and expedient.

The Report is intended particularly to inform the processes leading to the appointment of successors to Canon Dr Hunt and Canon Dr Dennis, and the Bishop is giving these matters priority.

Overall the Bishop has described the Report as "positive and encouraging", and he "looks forward to the contribution which it will make to the life of the Cathedral".

Dean Gordon

Coming Soon to Chester Cathedral

- 10 April City of Chester Male Voice Choir 123rd Festival Concert
- 17 April King's School Spring Concert
- 1 May Phantom of the Opera (1925 silent movie) - David Briggs on the Organ
- 22 May Handel's Messiah - Nave Choir & 18th C Concert Orchestra

Tickets available at the Admissions Desk, 01244 500959 or **Book Online at** www.chestercathedral.com

Refectory Recipe of the Month



Each month, we will be running a featured recipe from our Head Chef Andy Stokes' personal favourites. We are always looking for more recipe ideas so if you send one in and it is used in the Refectory, the donor will receive 4 main course vouchers.

THIS MONTH: Bakers Spring Lamb

Makes 4, Ready in 2 hours

Ingredients

- 1 large chopped onion
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 4 lamb chops or steaks
- 1 tsp clear honey
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 1 tin chopped tomatoes (400g)
- 75ml strong lamb or beef stock
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 2 tsp dried oregano
- 750g frozen broad beans (1 bag)
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley
- 1 squeeze lemon juice



1. Preheat oven at 160 degrees. Heat oil in a frying pan and brown lamb. Transfer to ovenproof dish.
2. Fry onions until soft.
3. Add tomatoes and cook over high heat for 3-5 minutes. Stir in honey, tomato puree, stock, cumin and oregano, season and pour over lamb. Cover with lid or foil. Bake for 1 hour.
4. Add broad beans to the dish. Cover and cook for 20 mins.
5. Stir in the parsley. Cook for another 10 minutes. Add lemon juice just before serving.

Saturday Singing Club Don't forget the summer term starts again on 1st May at 10-11.30am in the Song School for all children aged 6-11 years, free of charge. Please contact Carmella De Lucia on 01244 324756 for more information.



Friends of Chester Cathedral

**PLANT SALE
Friday 30 April & Saturday 1 May 2010**

Anybody out there with 'green fingers' is asked to support our annual Plant Sale by sowing extra seeds and potting up extra divisions of plants. Those of you who provide marmalades, pickles and chutneys for our 'Cake' stall are reminded that this is the time of year to be thinking about your preserves. Nearer the time we will be glad to receive offers of cakes and raffle prizes.

For further information about the Plant Sale please call Derek Jackson on **01244 350293**. Many thanks for your support.

Coffee Morning



A Coffee Morning was held by the 'Chester Cathedral Anglo-Russian support group' in support of the Education Department and our link Parish in Kondopoga, raising a magnificent total of £234.55

**The Phantom of the Opera
Saturday 1st May at 7.30pm**

The original silent movie version of Phantom of the Opera is coming to Chester Cathedral! Come along to watch the 1925 movie starring Lon Chaney in the title role as the masked and facially deformed 'phantom'. Exciting live musical accompaniment will be performed on Chester Cathedral's Grand Organ by world renowned organist David Briggs, whose legendary skill of improvised accompaniment has delighted audiences all over the world.



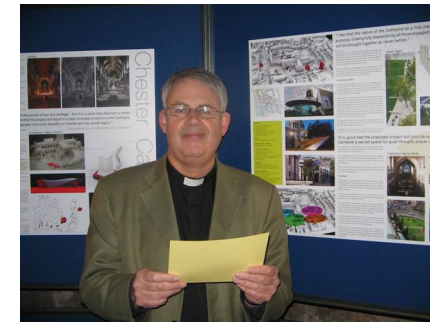
Tickets £10.00, £12.50 & £20.00 for premium seats and a post concert drinks reception with David Briggs
Box Office at the Admissions desk, 01244 500959 or online at www.chestercathedral.com

CATHEDRAL QUARTER TRANSFORMATION

The first phase of exciting plans for the transformation of Chester's historic Cathedral Quarter was announced recently. As part of the consultation process, an exhibition about the conceptual framework of the project was placed in the Undercroft for two weeks; visitors were able to comment on the plans and a great deal of interest was shown in this transformational scheme.

Vice Dean Canon Trevor Dennis said of this visionary development: "As a member of the clergy, I feel that the nature of the Cathedral as a holy place, with worship and prayer as its primary purpose, is being fully respected by all those engaged in the discussions. These proposals represent the most exciting development in the history of the Cathedral since the Victorian period. The City and Cathedral will be brought together as never before."

Further information will be displayed in the Undercroft as the project progresses.



The Dean with the Concept information boards in the Undercroft

NEW in the Cathedral Shop

Two lovely new products have arrived in the Cathedral Gift shop in time for Easter.

Firstly a transfer featuring St Werburgh as seen in the West Window; this can be used as a book mark or as a colourful window sticker - beautiful on a sunny day. On its reverse you can find a frequently requested prayer by D G Seiglow.

Secondly, we have stunning crystal paperweights and key rings which contain a three-dimensional etching of the Cathedral.



Fundraising News

Friday April 16th at 8 pm in the Refectory, an exhibition of work by Marguerite Elliott, who had a major exhibition in the South Transept a few years ago. Ten limited edition prints of Italian landscapes will be for sale on the night; the money will be split between the artist and the cathedral's fundraising work for the Education Department and children in Kondopoga. Admission will be £5 to include a glass of wine and nibbles. Do come along and support this generous contribution towards our fundraising efforts.

Friends of Chester Cathedral Card

This card, issued to members of the Friends of Chester Cathedral entitles the holder, on presentation of the card, to **10% discount in the Cathedral Shop and the Cathedral Refectory Cafe and, again on presentation of the card, to free entry to the Cathedral with one guest.**



CITY BRONZE ELEPHANT

You may have been wondering about the bronze elephant that has recently popped up outside the Cathedral on St. Werburgh Street!

It's there because Chester Zoo has donated a bronze elephant calf to the city - similar to that at its own main entrance. The female calf symbolizes the links between the UK's largest zoo and the city and it is also hoped that the 1m tall statue, sculpted by Hampshire sculptress Annette Yarrow, will encourage city tourists to venture to the zoo.

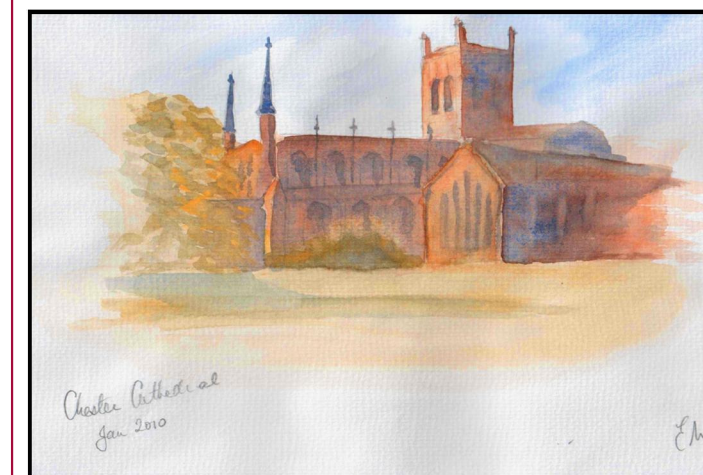
Alasdair McNee, Corporate Director for Chester Zoo, said: "We are delighted to unveil the latest addition to the city centre. Chester city has a world-class attraction - the UK's largest and most successful zoo - on its doorstep and we hope this magnificent sculpture will be a permanent reminder of that fact."



Alasdair Mc Nee, Director of Corporate Services at Chester Zoo and Gordon McGregor Reid, Director General of Chester Zoo stand with the elephant

**Join us for Sunday Lunch in the Refectory
Starting on Sunday 11 April 2010**

All the usual wholesome food and a delicious Sunday Roast from 12pm after Congregational Coffee



Thank you to Elizabeth Moncrieff one of our stalwart Education volunteers and supporters, who has painted another beautiful picture of the Cathedral as spring is upon us and Easter approaches.

Please send us your own photographs or articles, which might appear in future newsletters. We do want this publication to contain items that interest you.